

**ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS**

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING,
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2009, 6:30 PM
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

The School Committee met on Monday, September 28, 2009, at 6:30 PM, in the High School Library. Committee members present were: Mr. Norris, Mrs. Pezzella, Mr. Mills, Mr. Mullen, and Mrs. Werkheiser. Also present were Superintendent Retchless, Assistant Superintendent Scarpelli, Mrs. Cusick, and Student Representative Sara Crawford.

Mr. Steve Sangster, High School Principal; Ms. Forlizzi, Math Coordinator; Ms. Bohn, Middle School Assistant Principal; and students representing RSVP.

Representing the press was Mr. Arbuckle, Brockton Enterprise; and citizens broadcasting for WRPS/TV were present in the audience.

Chairman Norris welcomed Ms. Crawford, Student Representative to the meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the minutes of the meeting of September 14, 2009 were accepted.

The minutes of the South Shore Regional School District Committee meeting of July 15, 2009 were noted.

The Superintendent reported that the area of teacher Professional Development is well under the leadership of Mrs. Sheehan. Many opportunities are being offered to members of the staff. Mr. Retchless suggested that Mrs. Sheehan come to a School Committee meeting to make a presentation. Stimulus money has been used to purchase six notebook computers for teachers and several members of the staff including the Superintendent and Mr. Wells, Technology Coordinator, will attend a Math Conference in Boston in the near future.

On three separate motions by Mr. Mills, seconds by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the following July Financial Reports were accepted:

- 1) School Department
- 2) High School Student Activities
- 3) Middle School Student Activities

On three separate motions by Mr. Mills, seconds by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the following August Financial Reports were accepted:

- 4) School Department
- 5) High School Student Activities
- 6) Middle School Student Activities

Mr. Sangster, High School Principal, introduced members of RSVP (Student Voices) program. The group explained that the students had three concerns: 1) Cleanliness in the bathrooms, 2) Heating and cooling in the school, 3) cell-phone policy. They proposed a change in the cell-phone use policy and suggested it be a pilot program. After a general discussion, the School Committee requested that the students submit a proposal of their pilot program at the next meeting.

Mrs. Werkheiser noted that the next meeting of the School Building Committee will be Thursday, October 1st and the Committee will make a presentation to the Board of Selectmen on Monday, October 5th. The Superintendent reported that several members of the Committee attended a meeting at MSBA last week to finalize any last minute changes to prepare for the MSBA Board meeting on Wednesday, October 1st. The final figure for the project will be \$86.2 million and the reimbursement will be at 64.26%.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve the appointment of Mark Killinger as a volunteer Assistant Football Coach. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous. It was noted that there is no liability issue to the district.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, it was voted to approve the RHS Mission Statement.

A request from Girl Scout Troup #80452 to distribute flyers to the elementary and middle school students was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

The Superintendent gave the Committee an overview of the 2008 MCAS scores and the Adequate Yearly Progress which is the bar that has been established with the expectation that scores will improve each year. Mr. Retchless reviewed results by grade and a comparison to the state. Special emphasis will be given to Jefferson School. The Superintendent has met with the teachers and Mrs. Forlizzi, new Math Coordinator, will be working closely with the staff. The Action Plan will provide math curriculum help to elementary and middle school teachers, continue to work on MCAS writing skills, target professional development to areas of the curriculum identified by MCAS scores and integrate more technology in the curriculum. In 2009 both the High School and the Memorial Park School met AYP. The Esten School made AYP in English. The conclusions that were drawn were that RTI is working in the elementary schools along with the new Reading Program, mathematics needs to be a focus across the board, the Middle School English is close to achieving AYP and the high school must keep improving as the bar is raised.

Superintendent Retchless introduced Ms. Forlizzi, newly appointed Elementary/Middle School Math Coordinator. Ms. Forlizzi gave an overview of her activities including meetings with teachers at all grade levels and analysis of past MCAS scores. The goal is to create a seamless K-12 math curriculum. There also will be MCAS Math remediation for Grades 6, 7, and 8.

After a general discussion, a vote was taken on the request for a home school request. Motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella. Mr. Mullen and Mrs. Pezzella voted in favor and Mr. Norris, Mrs. Werkheiser, and Mr. Mills were opposed. The Superintendent was asked to survey members of the South Shore Superintendents' Roundtable to inquire about policies regarding home schooling in other districts.

Mrs. Linehan, IMC/Library Director, gave the Committee an overview of the proposed Library Long Range Plan. It was noted that twenty-four computers have been added to the library at the high school and that there is communication with the Public Library. On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to approve the plan.

On five separate motions for the Almshouse, Esten School, Hartsuff Park, Jefferson School, and Memorial Park trailers, it was voted to approve the 2009-2010 trailer contracts. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

The Superintendent reviewed the Fall 2009 Community Education classes and commended Mrs. Lamb for her efforts in this area.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, it was voted to table the nomination of a School Committee member to the MASC conference.

Mr. Retchless reviewed personnel information for August and September noting the appointment of Kathleen Mignacca as SPED teacher at the Middle School, the resignation of Russell Murachver WRPS Assistant and the appointment of Richard Salvucci as the new assistant. Also the retirement of Steve Lester, Grade 5 teacher at Jefferson School.

Mrs. Werkheiser noted the K-5 teacher in-service will be held on October 1st. The SOS Committee will hold a fundraiser on October 16th at the VFW in Abington, and the Athletic Booster's fundraiser on Saturday, October 3rd. Mrs. Werkheiser thanked people who volunteered at the Citizen's Scholarship toll booth. Ms. Crawford, Student Representative, announced that members of the National Honor Society have volunteered to tutor lower classmen, and their other activities include Mr. Rockland and the Breast Cancer Walk.

On the motion from Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Mills, Jr.
Secretary

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the meeting started in the Superintendent's office at 7:35 PM. Superintendent Retchless and Assistant Superintendent Scarpelli were invited to attend.

The Committee was updated on the status of the grievance relating to Mrs. Denise Curran.

On motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Mills, Jr.
Secretary